

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 3-12. The attached "Replacement Sheets," which include Figures 1-12, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-12.

Please amend Figures 1 and 3-12 by adding reference numeral 31 along with its associated leader line.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 18-22 remain pending in the present application. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 18-20 have been amended. Claims 21 and 22 are new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended the claims to define the heat exchangers as partially encircling the blower. Regarding the term parallel, the inlet to the two heat exchangers which are perpendicular to the plane of the drawing sheet are parallel. Applicants have better defined this parallel limitation. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of GB 2121879, JP 2001315526 and either one of JP 59-195413 or DT 3229866. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to define the casing as being installed on a front side in a trunk compartment behind a rear seat of the vehicle such that an inclined portion of the air-conditioner is arranged on a front side of the casing in a vehicle longitudinal direction and the inclined portion extends along a backrest of the rear seat. Support for this limitation is given on page 8, lines 8-13 of the

specification as filed. In order to give patentable weight to this limitation, the claims have been amended to a combination of an air conditioner and a vehicle.

The present invention provides an air-conditioner which is applied to a rear seat. An inclined portion provided on the front side of the air-conditioner casing in a longitudinal (front and rear) direction of the vehicle extends along the backrest of the rear seat. This makes it possible to advantageously use the space for the air-conditioner in a limited portion of a trunk (luggage) compartment located behind the rear seat of the vehicle. Such an arrangement is not disclosed in any of the references.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 6, 7, 9, 10 and 18-20, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 21 and 22 are dependent claims which Applicants believe further properly limit Claim 1. Applicants believe Claims 21 and 22 read on the elected species.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and

favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 18, 2006

By: 

Michael J. Schmidt, 34,007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MJS/pmg